

Snowmobile Trail Advisory Council (SnowTRAC) Meeting Minutes 09/20/2016

Approved and Final

1. SnowTRAC members present:

2. Dan Mayfield-Chair-Big Lake Trails, Inc.
3. John Scudder-Co-Chair- -Anchorage Representative
4. Erin McLarnon- Anchorage Representative
5. Gary Anderson-Kenai Peninsula-Valdez-Prince William Sound Representative

6.

7. SnowTRAC members not present:

8. Cynthia Hite-Mat-Su-Copper River Basin Representative
9. Justin Derr- Southeast Alaska Rep (see above do same for all)

10.

11. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Present:

12. Darcy Harris- Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) Alaska State Trails Program Coordinator
13. Steve Neel-DPOR, Grants Administrator
14. Jamie Walker-DPOR, Administrative Operations Manager
15. Diane Houston-DPOR, Administrative Assistant
16. Matt Wedeking-DPOR, Operations Manager/ Deputy Director
17. Ed Fogels-DNR, Deputy Commissioner

18.

19. Others Present:

20. Shelley Ramsey Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers Club-Treasurer
21. Kathy Lopeman-Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers Club-President
22. Randy Arndt-Lake Louise Snow Machine Club
23. Genevieve Wojtuski-staff -State Representative Mark Neuman's office-via teleconference

24.

25. Public Comment

26. Dan Mayfield- Chair, Governor Walker's decision not to fund the SnowTRAC program with Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) receipts is "upsetting", but he is hopeful the program will move forward.

27. Concerning Governor Walker not funding the SnowTRAC Program-Randy Arndt (Lake Louis Snow Machine Club), and Shelley Ramsey (Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers) discussed not registering their snow machines if the program doesn't move forward.
28. John Scudder (Anchorage) concern if they lose funding trails will be gone, there won't be anyone to work on the trails.
29. Gary Anderson (Kenai): He is encouraging everyone to continue to register their machines, in case Governor Walker does revise the program, people won't have to "scramble" to collect lost funds.

30.

31. DPOR Financial Discussion

32. Steve Neel- state fiscal year (SFY) 2015 funds left over from the Grooming Pool last year are approximately \$51,000. The snowmobile registration receipt total collected from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for SFY16 is \$211,234 (less 12% admin) is \$185,885.92. Added together the total available to spend for one year is \$236,885.92.
33. If the SnowTRAC decides to spend the money over two years the DPOR will take out two years' worth of administration costs, leaving \$105,768.92 available to spend on grants and grooming for each of two years.
34. SnowTRAC members and other club members-discuss pros and cons of one or two year funds.
35. Dan Mayfield-does not want to leave any money unutilized, He discusses wanting to use all available funds.
36. **John Scudder motioned to use all money in one year.**
37. **Gary Anderson agrees with motion.**
38. **Four members vote to spend money all in one year- (Erin McLarnon, Dan Mayfield, John Scudder and Gary Anderson) Motion Carried**

39.

40. Deputy Commissioner Ed Fogels

41. Ed Fogels, He is optimistic about the program, the budget, and upcoming legislative session.
42. Gary Anderson -Lots of people benefit from the program, he explained to Deputy Commissioner Fogels about the possibility of the public not registering their snow machines.
43. Ed Fogels-Discussed that the Commissioner's Office is working with other DNR Directors.
44. John Scudder-Asked if the Alaska Department of Transportation (AK DOT&PF) could put funds into the Program since snowmobile trails are often transportation corridors.
45. Dan Mayfield-A question to Deputy Commissioner Fogels: Was the letter he sent to the Governor's office received? Deputy Commissioner Fogels commented that it was received and discussed with Commissioner Mack and Governor's Legislative Support Staff; they do see value of the program.

46. Dan Mayfield: He wants to keep open communication between DPOR and the Governor
47. Ed Fogels "Thank you" to the SnowTRAC board.
- 48.
49. **Grant Application Scoring**
50. Grant Application 1: City of White Mountain-Tripod Repair Project
51. Erin McLarnon -Safety is important-though grant was incomplete; thinks other funding could be available.
52. Erin McLarnon: Made a motion not to fund the City of White Mountain, Tripod Repair Project
53. John seconds the motion
54. 1 Yea (Dan Mayfield)
55. 3 Nays (McLarnon, Scudder, and Anderson)
56. Grant Application 2: Alaska Avalanche Information Center, Inc., "'Five Gets' Backcountry Safety Signs
57. Erin McLarnon, Dan Mayfield, John Scudder, and Gary Anderson all comment on worthiness of the project, but discuss that they think the details are not clear on material costs and have concerns that land owners' approvals are not included in the application package.
58. Erin McLarnon-Makes a motion -to accept and approve the application
59. John Scudder Seconds the motion
60. 1 Yea (McLarnon)
61. 3 Nays (Mayfield, Anderson, and Scudder)
62. SnowTRAC Board will not recommend funding either grant application.
63. **Grooming Pool Discussion**
64. Mayfield: His, Cynthia's, and Erin's terms will expire March 1, 2017
65. Dan Mayfield encourages everyone to keep communicating with the Legislature's and Governor to encourage future funding for the SnowTRAC program.
66. Dan Mayfield any other comments?
67. John Scudder, No
68. Gary Anderson, No
69. Motion to adjourn by Dan Mayfield
70. Motion seconded by John Scudder
71. Meeting adjourned 11:23am.